



# *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

## NEWS RELEASE

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*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration  
well in progress by the year 2015*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 2, 2005

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### **Chief Rob Winkel Receives Prestigious David H. Hart Award**



Galloway, NJ – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission presented Chief Rob Winkel, formerly with the Bureau of Law Enforcement for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, its highest annual award, the David H. Hart Award, at the Commission's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Galloway, New Jersey.

"We are very proud to have someone from our state recognized not only for his contributions in conserving and managing New Jersey's fisheries resources, but also for his efforts to improve fisheries management coastwide," stated Martin J. McHugh, Director for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Chief Winkel has been instrumental in establishing a first-rate, highly efficient and professional law enforcement unit that ensures the conservation of New Jersey's natural resources and fosters public understanding of and compliance with resource management measures."

Chief Winkel's fisheries enforcement career began in 1978 when he became New Jersey's first and, at that time, only officer assigned to marine conservation. Instituting, and eventually supervising, a strong and much-needed conservation enforcement presence in the state's coastal waters, he initially served as the primary contact for fishing constituents and substantiated the importance of strict compliance monitoring to ensure the success of management actions. Ultimately, he turned the state's marine unit into a highly effective fisheries management tool.

When Chief Winkel joined the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee, nearly 20 years ago, he quickly became a leader by establishing subcommittees that monitored and tracked fishery management plans. He was a mentor to countless new committee members and strived to ensure that marine officers, regardless of state affiliation, receive the best available training. His participation in the Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council demonstrated an eagerness to become involved in the management process at all levels. He is highly respected by fishermen, biologists and managers for his in-depth knowledge of fisheries management and science, as well as his ability to identify enforceable harvest methods and restrictions to achieve compliance. Though now retired, he continues to be involved in fisheries management issues, particularly at the state level.

The Commission instituted the "Captain David H. Hart Award" in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of marine fisheries on the Atlantic coast. The award is named for the Commission's oldest and longest serving member, who was dedicated to the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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